

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An isolated mite protein comprising [[of]] at least about 83 amino acids of the sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO. 2, ~~said 83 amino acids being essentially identical to the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO. 3.~~

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a protein according to claim 1.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The nucleic acid according to claim 4, wherein the nucleotide sequence ~~of which~~ is ~~substantially~~ identical with 249 bases ~~no 1030-1279~~ of the sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO. 1.

6. (currently amended) [[A]] An isolated nucleic acid which hybridizes specifically under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid according to claim 4, wherein said stringent conditions are characterized by a salt concentration less than about 10 M Na ion, at a pH of 7.0 to about 8.3 and the temperature is at least about 30°C.

7. (previously presented) An expression vector which comprises a nucleic acid according to claim 4.

8. (cancelled)

9. (cancelled)

10. (currently amended) An isolated antibody raised against a protein according to claim 1.

11. (currently amended) [[An]] The isolated antibody according to claim 10, ~~which~~ wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A method for screening protein or peptide analogues ~~that mimic at least a part of the structure of the protein~~ according to claim 1, which comprises the steps of

(a) producing a multiplicity of analogue structures and

(b) selecting an analogue structure, wherein the three-dimensional configuration and spatial arrangement of one or more biologically active regions remain substantially preserved.

15. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 14, wherein said analogues ~~mimicking a protein having~~ have the amino acid sequences ~~essentially as~~ disclosed in SEQ ID NO. 3 ~~are screened for~~.

16. (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) ~~Use of a protein according to claim 1 in the manufacture of a vaccine~~ A method of making an immunogenic preparation, comprising adding the protein according

to claim 1 to a pharmaceutically and/or veterinary acceptable carrier.

18. (currently amended) ~~A vaccine~~ An immunogenic preparation comprising a protein according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically and/or veterinary acceptable carrier.

19. (currently amended) ~~A vaccine~~ The immunogenic preparation according to claim 18, wherein said immunogenic preparation is in a unit dosage form for the prevention of *Sarcoptes mange* or scabies.

20. (currently amended) A method of preventing a disease associated with mites in a subject, ~~such as *Sarcoptes scabiei*, in a subject, such as a human, canine or porcine subject, which method comprises administration of~~ comprising administering an effective amount of a preparation according to claim 18 to said subject in a ~~pharmaceutically effective dose~~ need thereof.

21. (currently amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein ~~said disease is~~ the subject suffers from *sarcoptes mange* or scabies.

22. (currently amended) A method for the diagnosis of a mite associated disease comprising the steps of

- a) immobilizing a protein according to claim 1;
- b) providing a sample suspected of being infected with said mite associated disease;

c) ~~incubation of~~ incubating said sample with said immobilized protein; and

d) ~~detection of~~ detecting any antibody bound to the immobilized antigen and thus specific for said mite associated disease; whereby a conclusion regarding the diagnosed condition is obtained.

23. (original) A method according to claim 22, wherein the mite associated disease is sarcoptic mange or scabies.

24. (previously presented) A kit for performing the method according to claim 23.

25. (new) A recombinant cell comprising a vector according to claim 7.

26. (new) A method of producing a protein, comprising the steps:

- a) providing a DNA according to claim 4;
- b) introducing said DNA in an expression vector;
- c) inserting said vector into a suitable host cell;
- d) culturing said host cell to obtain the desired protein product; and optionally
- e) purifying the protein or peptide produced.

27. (new) An isolated mite protein comprising SEQ ID NO. 2.